

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 4 - 15 stand as allowed. Claims 16 - 23 stand withdrawn from consideration pending the allowance of a generic claim. Claims 25 - 34 stand withdrawn from consideration pending the allowance of a generic claim.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 24 and 25 - 34 are being canceled herein above in favor of a divisional application. Claims 16 - 23 have been amended to depend from now allowed generic claim 4.

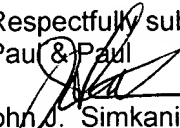
Allowed claims 4 and 5 have been amended to correct an antecedent and a spelling error. In claim 4, the antecedent is "shaft sections" and not "shaft portions". In claim 5, "respective" needed an "s". Claims 20 - 23 have been amended to correct the numbering.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended his attorney during the telephone interview of February 25, 2004 and of March 3, 2004. Should any further issue remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney.

It is urged that the case is now in condition for allowance with amended claims 4-15 and 16-23. It is requested that the application be now passed to issue with these claims.

Date: Mar 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
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